SERIES: BE COMPLETE
(A STUDY IN COLOSSIANS)
LESSON 6: BELIEVER, BEWARE
COLOSSIANS 2:16-23

INTRODUCTION: Spiritual life has its dangers. In this section of his letter Paul gave three warnings for us to heed if we are to enjoy our fullness in Christ:

I. LET NO ONE *JUDGE* YOU. (COLOSSIANS (2:16-17))

A. The *DANGER* of legalism
1. The flesh likes "religious duties."
B. The *BASIS* for our freedom. (2:16a)
1 The Person and work of Jesus.
C. The *BONDAGE* of legalism. (2:16)
1. Legalistic Regulations.
a. Diet
b. Days
D. The *BLESSING* of grace. (2:17)

II. LET NO MAN *BEGUILE* YOU OF YOUR REWARD. (2:18-19)

A. A Christian who fails to obey God's directions does *not* lose his *SALVATION* (v. 18a)
1. He does lose *REWARDS*. (I Corinthians 3:8)
a. There are degrees of rewards in Heaven.
b. There will be degrees of punishment in hell. (Matthew 23:14)
c. All believers will still be like Christ in their glorified bodies.
B. *MYSTICISM* was a problem (v.18b).

NOTE: The false teachers in Colossae had visions and made contact with angels.

1. Satan knows how to give counterfeit experiences to people. (2 Corinthians 11:13-15)

C. Not holding to the Head. (v.19)

1. Our spiritual nourishment must come from Christ.

a. Christ is the Head of the body, the church.

1). The false teachers were not holding to the Head. They Thought they were experts.

III. LET NO ONE *ENSLAVE* YOU! (Colossians 2:20-23)

A. Paul now condemns *ASCETICISM.*

1. Asceticism – ascetic practices rigorous self-denial and even Self-mortification in order to become more spiritual.

B. The Christians spiritual position. (v. 20)

1. We govern our lives by His laws and not the rule of men.

a. The *FUTILITY* of ascetic rules. (vs. 21-22)

b. The *DECEPTION* of asceticism. (2:23)

CONCLUSION: IS CHRIST PREDEINENT IN YOUR LIFE? ARE YOU DRAWING ON HIS SPIRITUAL POWER OR DEPENDING ON SOME MAN-MADE RELIGIOUS SUBSTITUTE?